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# Editor's Comment

#### WHEN Warrington was recently revealed as the third best place for a night out in the UK, not surprisingly it attracted a lot of negative comments on social media.

It never ceases to amaze me how many people appear to enjoy knocking our town.

Having lived and worked here all my life I know it is not perfect - but where is? Everywhere has its

good and bad points. But I have been here long enough to know where I can go out safely and enjoy myself with my family and friends - and currently considering the problems facing the country, I think Warrington is doing pretty well as a town, with aspirations to become a city.

I even ventured into Bridge Street recently, seen as a no go zone for many older people, and had a great night out at The Grand Cocktail Bar, after previously dining out at the Cook House in Warrington Market.

I was with my wife, my daughters and their friends, covering a wide generation gap - and yet we all had a great time, enjoying good

food and feeling totally safe. So let's try and have a glass half full, rather than half empty attitude towards our town, which is full of small local businesses relying on our support.

In the coming months we will be working with the Warrington BID to help promote our town centre as a place to be proud of and support.

Meanwhile Warrington people are now being asked to share their views on experiencing a safe, vibrant nighttime economy with a broad cultural appeal

Warrington Borough Council has launched a Night Time Economy consultation, as part of a review of the town's licensing policy, to ensure local need is considered and the views of residents are reflected.

The special policy, known as a cumulative impact assessment, looks at whether there is evidence to show that the number, or density of licensed premises in a particular area, is leading to local problems, such as crime and disorder and public nuisance.

of nightlife across

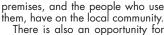
quarter, town centre,

Culcheth and Lymm.

Stockton

There

The survey is asking local residents to comment



people to let the Council know their views on how well served they think areas are by pubs, bars and family-orientated venues and how they feel about the potential opening of new premises.

In addition, people are invited to share their experiences of how the COVID-19 pandemic may have changed how they feel about having a night out in Warrington. All information from th

the consultation will help shape the future of Warrington's nighttime economy and inform the Council's licensing policies to consider local need.

To find out how to take part in the survey please email equalities@ warringtón.gov.uk



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# Campaign to help save RSPCA animal shelter underway

To help kick start the fund-raising campaign to keep the shelter open

"It's heartbreaking to hear how

some of these animals have been left

to suffer at the hands of humans," said Gary. "Although our Legacy project

grant is only small when compared to

donation

from

the charity has received a £500

Project

warrington worldwide.

Legacy

### campaign to save the local branch of the RSPCA animal shelter on Slutchers Lane from closure is underway, with a £500 Legacy Project grant from warrington worldwide. rehabilitated.

The Warrington Shelter is due to celebrate it's 40th anniversary next year but now needs urgent financial donations to keep its gates open so it can continue to provide vital welfare services to local animals affected by neglect and abuse.

neglect and abuse. During a visit to the shelter Editor Gary Skentelbery met up with team members Jenny and Katie and "Star of the show" Star, a young puppy currently being fostered after being a victim of pagest victim of neglect.

With running costs of £28,000 a month, the RSPCA Warrington Halton and St Helens Branch operates with one member of staff for every three volunteers.

The pandemic has had a devastating impact on the charity which supports animal victims of cruelty and neglect at the hands of humans. The charity has 12 dog spaces and 18 cat spaces and works to the highest legislative standards to rehome and rehabilitate these animals.

The running costs go towards veterinary fees, licensing conditions and welfare regulations, council tax and keeping the lights and heat on. The average cost per dog and cot is around £30 per animal per day. As an independent charity, they rely on public generosity to help care to the dozone of animal head and

for the dozens of animals homed and

to helps encourage others to support this worthy cause to help provide a better future for defenceless animals." How can you can help?

When you shop via the RSPCA Online Shop, you're helping to support their work. So whether you're buying a dog bed or a cat bowl you know that the purchase you make will help benefit animal welfare in your local area.

There are loads of ways to raise money for the RSPCA! If you're a daredevil you could do a skydive or if you prefer to keep your feet on the ground you could take part in a run. Take a look at our fundraising ideas

to get you started. The easiest way is by signing up to make a regular, or one-off donation and every penny truly does help. You can make a donation by

visiting https://rspca-whs.org.uk/ save-our-shelter/ or you can email sos@rspca-whs.org.uk.

Sos@rspca-wns.org.uk. People can also send a cheque or bring cash donations to the RSPCA Warrington, Halton and St. Helens branch at Slutchers Lane, Warrington, WA1 1NA (opening hours are 10am-4pm, seven days a week).



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Warrington's

# British Science Week inspires a new generation of scientists

WARRINGTON'S Priestley College celebrated British Science Week by joining a series of online lectures from leading scientists, academics and even a former Blue Peter presenter.

Students from all STEM subjects had something to ignite their passion during the national event, which also included activities in

"We have so many high achieving, talented scientists and so it was great to be a part of British Science Week and all the opportunities that offered," said STEM coordinator Shahida Khanam.

British Science Week's theme in 2022 was 'Growth' as well as 'smashing stereotypes' and lectures covered topics as varied as 'does climate change cause war?' to science and creativity as well as role models.

Speakers included neuroscientist Dr Sai Pathmanathan and former Blue Peter presenter Konnie Huq who ran a STEM reading workshop.

Doctor Tim Gabriel, a senior lecturer in Chemical Science, gave a talk in one of the Priestley College laboratories which included advice on securing university places. One of the main activities

Priestley students were involved with, however, involved inspiring others.

They worked with a Latchford community group to present

T-LEVELS

experiments along the theme of 'Growth' that would spark the imaginations of a new generation.

Among those who took part were Maisy Berry, Joshua Ralte and Rachael Jones who used mentos and coke to demonstrate a chemical reaction in their online presentation.

"I hope we have somewhat placed a seed of curiosity in the minds of the kids about the sciences," said former Penketh High pupil Joshua. For Rachael, who previously studied at The Grange Academy,

it was fun seeing their planning

come to fruition and the enjoyment families got from watching their presentation.

"The project will also provide me with beneficial experiences that I can include on my personal statement for university applications," said Rachael, who is hoping to go on to study children's nursing.



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## Warrington Business

# Marketing student receives scholarship for work placement achievements and secures dream career

A marketing student who impressed her work placement bosses in Warrington so much, that they've already offered her a full-time role, has been rewarded with a scholarship and dream career.

Third-year Marketing with Digital Communications student Anna Bolger, has received a £1,000 On-Course Excellence Scholarship after being nominated by her tutor and work-related learning coordinator at Edge Hill University.

It recognises Anna's personal development and the role she's playing in the growth of Morgan Branding – a digital agency in Warrington that works for both big names and startures

Warrington that works for both big names and start-ups. Following a three-month placement at the beginning of 2021, Anna has been working part-time for the agency alongside her studies. She will take up a fulltime position when she graduates in May.

She said: "Edge Hill's employability module has been key to securing my future. Without it, I wouldn't have had the chance to learn on the job at such a great company. It's encouraged me to reflect on what I've learned and

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think about how I can improve. It's given me confidence and strengthened my desire to succeed." Her love of Instagram and Tik Tok, and her creativity in using the channels, has improved and expanded Morgan Branding's own social media reach and engagement. Its Tik Tok account now has over 20,000 followers. Her work also means that Morgan Branding can now offer bespoke Tik Tok services, with around 25 clients already on their books for this service alone.

around 25 clients already on their books for this service alone. Anna is grateful to Edge Hill and Morgan Branding for the doors they've helped open saying: "Morgan Branding have been so welcoming and supportive. The agency's already growing, so I have many opportunities to gain experience. I see a bright future there there.

Callum Morgan, Director of Morgan Branding, said: "Anna has been an incredibly valuable



asset to our team. She has single-handedly grown our new social media department around TikTok, providing a variety of services. Anna has created, sold and delivered the new offering. "We are incredibly excited for Anna to join us full time in May and are looking forward to watching her grow!"

her grow!" On-Course Excellence Scholarships are awarded to students that are proud of something they have achieved and can demonstrate determination, commitment and achievement outside their studies. Edge Hill University has a broad

programme of scholarships for prospective and current students, recognising practical academic excellence. Edge Hill's BSc and

(Hons) Marketing with Digita Communications develops students expertise in digital ' marketing, expertise in digital marketing, branding and consumer behaviour. It gets them ready for a career in the industry, even setting up and running their own company. The Year 2 employability module is designed to enhance students' understanding, skill-base and personal development. It also familiarises them with the business

familiarises them with the business environment.

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# Mixed bag of rugby, planning and property!

by John Laverick - Warrington & Co

Bit of a Quality Street feel to this month, I am not sure where else you would get a mix of rugby, planning and property, apart from an estate agents versus planners rugby match but some important or at least noteworthy events coming up. So pick your favourites.

After reaching agreement with Rugby League World Cup 2021 organisers, Warrington will now play host to a further exciting sporting event in November this year with the Halliwell Jones stadium confirmed as

the venue for the 4th RLWC men's quarter final. This event had been due to take place at the Macron stadium in Bolton, but has been moved following a schedule clash. The quarter final event will be one of

# Rapid response command post showcased to NATO

A rapid response command post that has been showcased to NATO, to transform battlefields of the future, is set to create 50 jobs in Warrington. Verde Spaces, a Warrington-based defence industry start-up recently demonstrated its product, having been invited by HQ Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) – part of NATO – to showcase its rapidly-deployable command post.

Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) – part of NATO – to showcase its rapidly-deployable command post. The unit, launched by Verde Spaces, who are based at the town's engineering technology hub, The Base on Dallam Lane, was showcased at the ARRC's Innovation Day. More than 65 members of NATO were shown the revolutionary product, which is capable of replacing multiple disparate systems and can be deployed in the battlefield inside fifteen minutes. The system will significantly transform how NATO deploy and operate on the battlefield of the future. The first unit is now operational and is being tested by potential end users, having been produced in Appleton. Verde Spaces managing director Neil Rustage scild. "Our team has

been produced in Appleton. Verde Spaces managing director Neil Rustage said: "Our team has demonstrated that UK sovereign capability exists and, along with vastly experienced industry experts, it is possible to engineer and manufacture an incredibly complex systems platform incorporating different technologies from multiple aitterent technologies from multiple disciplines. We are launching a product that reduces the need for multiple, non-compatible systems for the end-user. "We are delighted to have been part of the innovation being undertaken at ARRC NATO and look

forward to working further with them as well as our many other clients and partners across the industry. I'm particularly proud that we will be doing so from our base in Warrington.

Warrington. Mr Rustage says fifty new positions will be created by the company over the next five years to meet demand. Steve Park, Director of Growth at Warrington Borough Council said: "Warrington's economic said: "Warrington's economic success is built on a strong legacy of manufacturing, especially in steel fabrication and specifically wire. It is encouraging to see that Verde Spaces are continuing this heritage, utilising world class engineering skills to launch a unique solution that can be sold overseas. The Council is delighted to be supporting Verde Spaces with its exciting expansion programme, helping to identify the best location and an experienced skill base." skill base.

skill base." Stephen Fitzsimons, Chief Executive of Warrington Chamber of Commerce added: "Warrington is a high value, high wage economy with a specialist manufacturing sector that exports around the world. Verde Spaces are a welcome addition to this success and the Chamber will be supporting them to ship their products This success and the Chamber will be supporting them to ship their products to North America and beyond. It's always exciting to discover business activity that is unique and attention-grabbing which helps sell the Warrington proposition to potential investors. Verde Spaces' future is very bright and the Chamber will be balance them achieve their ambitious helping them achieve their ambitious objectives.



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the major matches in the world cup competition and is in addition to the 3 men's group games and full PDRL world cup event which were already scheduled in the town. The quarter final will take place in Warrington on Sun 6th November and this is an important recognition of the significant role Warrington has to play in this year's tournament. I am significant role warrington has to play in this year's tournament. I am sure Warrington will welcome even more fans to the latter this year for a spectacular fixture at the hopefully

a spectacular fixture at the hoperuliy packed Halliwell Jones stadium. The Local Plan has passed its final internal hurdles and is about to submit the Local Plan for 'Examination in Public' to be carried out by an independent Inspector. At the moment we are expecting that the moment we are expecting that the Examination in Public, to be held during autumn 2022 at which point public, concerns and comments are heard by the inspector having previously been submitted during consultation. If needed, the inspector consultation. It needed, the inspector may recommend changes to the Local Plan and any consultation on these potential modifications following the Examination in Public is likely to be undertaken in early 2023 with adoption anticipated by autumn 2023. The Local Plan quite rightly recourse a stanificant number rightly receives a significant number of comments and objections and a proper airing at enquiry.

On a last note we were delighted



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John Laverick

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to return to a face to face format for the Warrington & Co. Annual Property Review on 22nd April. Remarkably the first time in 2 years we have been able to get together and now in its 24th year, the event attracts property professionals from across the North West to hear how Warrington has performed in the previous 12 months in areas including office, industrial, retail and housing. Despite the pandemic, we achieved some positive results, with property investments up 56% and an increase in housing sales of 58% compared to 2021. Nearly 150 guests joined us on the day, no doubt enticed by the networking opportunity and fantastic Park Royal hospitality.



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# Warrington revealed as the third best place for a night out in the UK!

### NEW research has revealed Warrington as the 3rd best place for a night out in the UK.

WORKING HARD FOR WARRINGTON SOUTH

The study, from Get Licensed, analysed the number of venues per head, the cost of a pint and a range

head, the cost of a pint and a range of safety issues to reveal the best nights out in Britain. In third place behind York and Telford, was Warrington, which received an Overall Night Out Score of 6.97. Inbetween Manchester and Liverpool, Warrington is easily accessible from both as well as accessible from both, as well as having a direct rail link to London.

Here to Help

Andy

ANDY CAR

Contact Andy

Warrington benefits from a healthy balance of having many pubs and bars in the area to choose from while providing a relatively safe experience for visitors to the town.

A lot of work has taken place in recent years to improve Warrington's of the Cultural Quarter, home of the historic Parr Hall and a number of fine dining restaurants and bars and Time Square, with the town's

new Warrington Market Cookhouse making excellent añ evenina destination.

Golden Square has also reinvented itself in recent years as a night time destination with regular events under the old fish market.

There is also the new multi-screen cinema and the popular Botanist restaurant as well as Gravity and the recently opened Costellos and The Grand Cocktail bar on Bridge Street, to name but a few.

Warrington Borough Council Cabinet member for economic development and innovation, Cllr Tom Jennings, said: "I'm very pleased that Warrington is getting the recognition it deserves and I'm proud of the role the council continues to play to support our night-time economy, in the town control bound bound the town centre and beyond.

"We want Warrington to have something for everyone and to be a relaxed, safe and ultimately fun place for people to spend their evenings and nights, and you only have to look at Time Square to know how committed we are to delivering on this vision. The hard work doesn't stop here. We are ambitious to keep making improvements to our night time offer, but this is certainly important recognition that we're on the right track.

Meanwhile, British towns and cities vary wildly when it comes to safety. While all of the best nightlife venues have ample staff and door

supervisors, all with the appropriate training and SIA licences, safety is still an important factor that many consider when planning a night out. The Methodology of the survey considered a range of factors including the number of venues per head, the cost of a pint, and a range of safety issues.

The data used for the number of bars and clubs was taken from Tripadvisor, while the number of pubs close to each location was taken from CAMRA's whatpub.com. The data was then compared to the populations of each town and city using data from The Geographist. Additionally, the price of a pint was sourced from Numbeo. This figure was given as a price per 500ml, which was used to calculate what a pint measure would cost in proportion.

Numbeo's safety data was also used to track a range of safety-related

factors for each town and city. Meanwhile the town centre recovery continues at pace with a number of new business opening or relocating recently including:
 Costello's (Time Square)
 LIDS (Golden Square)

•Sketchers (Due to open in Golden Square soon)

•Capelli Remi (hair extensions and ear piercing in Golden Square) •Vintage Viola (moving to Market

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# St Rocco's brings first national charity gift card scheme to Warrington

### A PIONEERING multi-retailer gift card exclusively for charity shops has been launched in Warrington in partnership with St Rocco's Hospice and Warrington Borough Council.

The first of its kind, the Charity Shop Gift Card has been developed Shop Gitt Card has been developed in partnership with the Charity Retail Association (CRA) and is now being sold and accepted in St Rocco's Hospice's 10 shops which provide vital funding to support the care it provides, free of charge to people with life-limiting and terminal illness.

Warrington Borough Council is the first local authority in the UK to use the charity gift cards to distribute funds from its local support scheme which helps individuals and families who do not have alternative means of paying for what they need in a disaster or emergency, or to enable independent living in the community.

community. By partnering with the charity gift card scheme, the council will distribute financial support in a sustainable way while at the same time empowering them with dignity and choice over their purchases. The Charity Shop Gift Card is helping to drive the growing second-hand revolution which is helping to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill. Recent figures show that charity shops divert show that charity shops divert 339,000 tonnes of textiles away from landfill or incineration every year.

It is currently being rolled out

Borough Council. among members of the CRA who, collectively, have over 9,000 stores across the UK, offering them their first opportunity to tap into the growing £7billion gift card market. Eric Russell, Head of Income Generation at St Rocco's Hospice, said: "We're really excited to be involved in the charity gift card and the prospect of working with our local council to offer the gift card as local council to offer the gift card as a way of providing essential items to the residents of Warrington. We can only see the scheme growing as people realise the benefits of

Cllr Tony Higgins, Warrington Borough Council cabinet member for leisure and community, said: "This charity gift card is another excellent way to support a local charity that gives so much to the community, as well as providing a more sustainable choice of gift card. We've very excited about the partnership with St Rocco's and the Charity Pottal Association and the Charity Retail Association and, depending on the success of the scheme, we hope we can expand the offer in future to include more local charitable organisations.

Lee Fellows, Co-founder of The Charity Shop Gift Card, said: 'Sustainability is a major driver of our scheme with the need for urgent action to control climate



St Rocco's shop manager Kate Bell (centre) with volunteers Christine Doolev and Beth Purnell.

change at the top of the global agenda. The gift card market is huge and growing, and central to our aim is to help charities like St Rocco's to tap into that so they can continue the contribution that they are already making to reduce the amount of waste that is sent to landfill. In Warrington, we're taking it a step further by partnering with Warrington Borough Council with the aim of widening the impact of our gift card for good.

The single-load gift cards recyclable themselves will be and compostable and will be on sale at all St Rocco's Hospice shops, at supermarkets and other major retailers from this month, and as e-vouchers from www.

thecharityshopgiftcard.co.uk. The Charity Shop Gift Card is a member of Social Enterprise UK and the Gift Card and Voucher Association.



# **Road named after USAAF** test pilot

A new road on the residential part of Omega has been named in memory of Major Frederic A Borsodi, USAAF, who tragically died whilst flying an experimental jet plane over Burtonwood airbase in January 1945.

Borsodi Boulevard is set to be officially unveiled on May 26th as part of a Burtonwood airbase reunion event.

The new 'R3' spine road through the residential part of Omega, extending from the signalcontrolled junction at Burtonwood Road / Kingswood Road, down to the Green Heart) is being named 'Borsodi Avenue' in memory of the American WW2 Test Pilot who died towards the end of the war whilet thread an autorimental int whilst flying an experimental jet plane

Although built, the road is not yet open to the public so to coincide with this year's Burtonwood Association's reunion, it is proposed to hold an official opening ceremony on Thursday 26

May. Major Frederic A Borsodi (November 4, 1916 – December 28, 1945) entered US Army Air Corps service in Connecticut and transform 1941 to 1943 as a served from 1941 to 1943 as a second lieutenant in the African, second lieutenant in the African, Sicilian, and Italian campaigns, completing 130 missions as a P-40 pilot. His flying experience with the P-40 in the Mediterranean area probably formed his basis of comparison of the Bf 109G-6/ trop and the US Army Air Forces

fighters.

He became chief of fighter testing from 1943-45 at Wright Field in Ohio. He was the first man to witness the compressibility shock wave on an aircraft wing while diving a P-51 plane from 40,000 feet.

On January 28, 1945, when testing YP-80A Shooting Star 43-83026, the engine exploded and the aircraft crashed approx three miles west of Burtonwood airfield, pilot, Major Borsodi was killed and the aircraft completely destroyed. This aircraft was the first US jetpropelled fighter and one of two jets on the field. Both planes had received a first flight check; this plane crashed during a routine second flight. As a result, the YP-200 were temperative grounded 80A was temporarily grounded. Had he survived WWII, he would almost certainly have been a candidate to fly the Bell X-1 and be the first man to exceed the speed of sound

Major Borsodi is buried at the US

Military Cemetery at Cambridge. Plot C, Row 4 Grave 73. His awards were: Distinguished Flying Cross with Oak Leaf Cluster, Air Medal with six Oak Leaf Clusters.





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# Status Quo icon Francis Rossi to share stories and songs at intimate show

WITH a hugely successful music career rocking all over the world, Status Quo's Francis Rossi is returning to Warrington's Parr Hall to show fans his quieter side, when he embarks on an intimate theatre tour next year.

The Status Quo legend will be hanging up his electric guitar and putting the amps away for one-man show, 'Tunes and Chat'. He famously appeared at the venue back in 2010 in a rare

12

appearance at a smaller venue. The massive 101-date tour will kick off in March 2023 and run until November 2023 – calling in at Parr Hall on Friday, 21 April, 2023.

As the show title suggests, Francis will share his experiences and highlights after more than 50 years in the ever-changing music business. He will also be bringing his acoustic guitar to play stripped-back versions of bis Que for activity for activity of the second back versions of his Quo favourites from well-known hits to rarities.

Status Quo's origins go back to 1962 when Francis teamed up with Alan Lancaster when they were both still schoolboys. After a number of line-up and name

a number of line-up and name changes, the band settled on Status Quo by 1969. Rick Parfitt, who sadly died in 2016 after spending almost 50 years with the band, joined two years earlier. The duo formed the backbone of Status Quo – a magic formula that led to more than 60 formula that led to more than 60 chart hits in the UK.

That includes the chart-topping

Down Down, signature tune Rockin All Over The World, Whatever You Want and In The Army Now.

In 1991, Status Quo received a Brit Award for Outstanding Contribution to Music and Rossi and his bandmates have never really stopped - their last album,

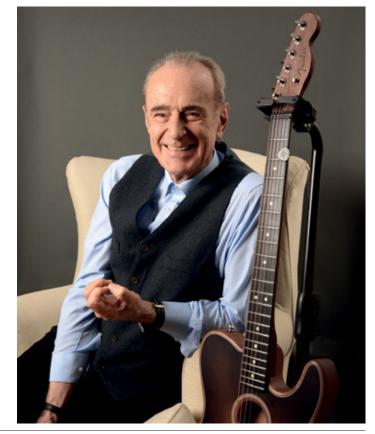
Backbone, was released in 2019. Chris Persoglio, Venue and Events Manager at Parr Hall, said: 'We can't wait to welcome an icon like Francis Rossi as we continue to bounce back after the Covid restrictions.

"The announcement comes just months after another legend – Led Zeppelin's Robert Plant – graced our stage. We reckon this show will be just as special and we're proud to add Francis to a huge roster of stars that we've brought to Warrington."

Francis Rossi: Tunes and Chat is at Parr Hall on Friday, 21 April, 2023.

Tickets are on sale now. VIP packages are also available for fans who wish to meet Francis before the show.

Visit parrhall.culturewarrington org or call the box office on 01925 442345.



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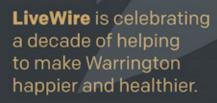
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\*T&Cs apply - see website for details









See inside for more!

# 2012 - 2022

@yourLiveWire



WARRINGTON Borough Council

livewirewarrington.co.uk



# LiveWire is 10!

It's been a decade since Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II opened Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub and LiveWire was born. We've spent 10 fantastic years delivering Leisure, Libraries and Lifestyles services on behalf of Warrington Borough Council. From state-of-the-art gym equipment to thousands of books and e-books, from teaching the town's youngsters to swim to helping people stop smoking and lose weight - LiveWire has been here to help YOU!

But we're not stopping now – we're looking forward to the NEXT 10 years and doing even more to keep the borough in shape - physically and mentally. We are a local Community Interest Company which means we are nonprofit and reinvest revenue back into our services and sites. So when you buy a leisure membership with us, you're helping to support a wealth of projects and services in YOUR town. From keeping books on the shelves in our libraries to running youth outreach projects in our parks - by supporting LiveWire you are supporting Warrington!

> With six leisure sites across Warrington we're a one-stop-shop for keeping in shape. From swimming pools to gyms, squash, tennis and badminton courts to football pitches, we offer a wide variety of activities and equipment. Whether you like pounding the treadmill or joining in group exercise classes, we've got you covered! Our popular Learn To Swim scheme has helped thousands of local youngsters take the plunge (including an Olympic Champion!) and our award-winning tennis programme is hugely popular with young people and adults alike.

Read on to learn more about us and what we do...

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Leisure













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### Libraries

With 13 libraries across the borough we're proud to say using a LOCAL library has never been easier for Warrington residents. And it doesn't stop with just books, e-books and audio options - from free computer access to a wealth of groups and activities - our amazing library staff are on hand to help. And our Home Library Service is perfect for anyone who isn't able to visit the library in person - meaning no one is left without access to free books.

### Sports Development

Our Sports Development team makes a real difference to the lives of families in Warrington. Throughout the year our coaches get out and about around the borough helping to support young people and their families. From boxing classes to drop-in youth outreach sessions in residential areas and parks and FREE Holiday Food & Activities sessions during school holidays - we are making a real difference to the lives of young people. And for older generations we offer Walking Rugby and Netball meaning people cam enjoy the games they love for longer.



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**XX** 

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- Offer applies to new adult (16 and above) monthly direct debit memberships only Standard membership terms & conditions apply Offer available from 1st to 31st May 2022





# Campaign to create a 00-acre nature reserve

**PEOPLE** in Warrington are being invited to be part of an exciting opportunity to create a 100-acre nature reserve.

Cheshire Wildlife Trust has launched the appeal to mark their

60th birthday. Donations will help to buy and rewild 3mx3m squares of land at the new reserve. For each donation, supporters will be allocated their own square which can be named and dedicated to something or someone special. Once the target has been reached and the nature reserve purchased, they will receive a digital certificate with the precise location of their patch, mapped using what3words. – A £20 donation will help buy a

 A £20 aonation will help buy a 3mx3m square.
 A £65 donation will help buy and rewild a 3mx3m square.
 The creation of a brand-new nature reserve will increase the area of land managed by Cheshire Wildlife Trust and help achieve their ambitious goal to bring their ambitious goal to bring wildlife back to the region.

To buy and create the new nature reserve, they must urgently raise at least £200,000 before July 1. Cheshire Wildlife Trust is calling

for at least 30 per cent of our land and sea to be connected, protected, and managed for nature's recovery by 2030. It is estimated that around 22 per cent of Cheshire – including Warrington - is currently good for nature.

To buy the new nature reserve, Cheshire Wildlife Trust estimates chesnire Wildlife Irust estimates it will need to raise around £1m overall this year. In addition to the public appeal, the Trust is looking for major donors, corporate sponsors and funders as well as exploring innovative funding mechanisms like biodiversity net gain and carbon offsatting gain and carbon offsetting.

To donate to Cheshire Wildlife Trust's 3mx3m appeal visit cheshirewildlifetrust.org. visit uk/3mx3m





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# **Thumbs up for Warrington Youth Zone**

WARRINGTON South MP Andy Carter has given the thumbs up to the town's brand new Youth Zone, after meeting young people enjoying the town centre facility during the school holidays.

On his recent visit, the Warrington South MP met some of the first children to get to spend time at the Youth Zone, taking part in the Government's Holiday Activities and Food Programme, which provides support to children on free school meals through school holiday periods.

The centre will be offering activities 7 days a week for just 50p per visit, giving young people aged 7-19 (and up to 25 for those with additional needs) a safe place to socialise, exercise, develop new skills and have fun.

Touring the building with Warrington Youth Club CEO Dave McNicholl, Mr Carter also met with many of the newly recruited staff before chatting to some of the young people visiting for the first time.

Mr Carter said: "Every young person I've spoken to here at the Youth Zone today thinks this is such a brilliant place, so good they don't want to go home at the end of the day.

day. "Seeing the outline sketches, being invited to the groundbreaking, touring the site while construction was underway and now meeting the kids who are the very purpose

Lynum Festival

of the Youth Zone – it feels like we've all come on an incredible journey. The range of activities this centre offers is endless: a rooftop football pitch, climbing wall, podcast studio, arts and crafts, drum kits, cooking, basketball courts and so much more!

"This is an incredibly exciting project helping to strengthen young people's physical and mental health and wellbeing. It was great to meet some of the dedicated, hard-working staff who are making the place come together and the patrons who've helped financially to bring a vision to reality. I'm so pleased we have such a brilliant

the pandemic, Lymm Festival is

back and it promises to be better

Kick-starting on Thursday 23rd June to Sunday 3rd July, the festival has something for everyone, with

old favourites like the FoodFest where the village comes alive with

the tantalising sights and smells of local restaurants and street traders. There'll be new events too including the spoken word, plus some great headliners and music.

The full programme of events will be launched in early May when the Festival Guide will be distributed in Lymm and the surrounding areas.

There'll also be a new website to

coincide with the launch.

than ever this summer.

place for kids in Warrington to be able to get stuck in when the Youth Zone is fully up and running." More information on the Youth Zone can be found here: https:// warringtonyouthzone.org/



### Lymm Festival returns for a jam-packed 11 days of live events AFTER a notable absence, due to Keep up-to-date with all things keeping an eye on the website

Keep up-to-date with all things Lymm Festival by following them on Facebook and Instagram and keeping an eye on the website, where you can also sign-up for the newsletter.



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 OUT & ABOUT • HERITAGE • FAMILY FUN • SPOKEN WORD



# Celebrating 10 years of LiveWire with launch of FITBOX!

### LIVEWIRE is marking its 10th Anniversary in May - and is celebrating with the launch of an exciting new boxing-themed fitness concept.

FITBOX is a dynamic boutique-style boxing and functional fitness workout experience exclusive to LiveWire, the community interest company which delivers leisure, libraries and lifestyles services on behalf of Warrington Borough Council.

LiveWire was created in 2012 and alongside the launch of FITBOX, May will see lots of celebrations for the milestone birthday, including a membership offer, competitions, an infographic highlighting the work done by the organisation and an exciting video filmed recently that features members and staff.

The former function room at Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub has undergone a dramatic transformation for the launch of FITBOX and is now a state-of-the-art fitness space. FITBOX sessions will incorporate

12 rounds of exercises, alternating between functional moves and bag work over a 45 minute period. There will be a mix of sessions, open to all (no previous boxing experience required) as well as dedicated sessions for under-16s, families, and women-only sessions.

LiveŴire group exercise instructors have undergone training with England Boxing in preparation for the launch of FITBOX.

- Included in the FITBOX studio will
- be:
- Boxing bags
- Training ring
  Functional training equipment such as kettlebells, battle-ropes, power bags, slam balls and more
- Curved treadmills
- Air Bikes Specialist boxing bags
- Digital LED lighting system to create an immersive experience with fast paced moving and strobing lighting for dynamic/ up-tempo classes.

Kev Forester, Commercial Director for LiveWire, said: "We're really excited to launch this brand new fitness offer to our members to coincide with LiveWire's 10th Anniversary. We were keen to offer a new workout experience to our customers to help invigorate their training routines. Boxing is a great way to burn calories, improve fitness, improve body shape, and to relieve stress but we know that many people would not feel comfortable stepping into a more "With this concept we wanted to

ensure we created an offer that is open to all, bringing the benefits of such training into a non-intimating and inclusive environment with the

emphasis more being on getting a good workout, as opposed to the more technical boxing elements. "We look forward to welcoming

our members to this new space and hope they will be as excited as we are about this new addition to our exercise programme." FITBOX sessions will be included

all-inclusive members at no for additional charge. Members are able to utilise the space for their own workouts when the studio is not in use for organised sessions. Non-members will able to access this space on a Pay As You Go basis.

Specific sessions will also be targeted to engage with what are typically hard to reach communities in order to have a positive impact on reducing anti-social behaviour in the immediate area.



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# Hive of activity for iconic department store building in multi-million pound redevelopment

### THE transformation of one of Warrington's iconic buildings is underway with a multi-million redevelopment of the former Co-op and TJ Hughes Department store on the corner of Sankey Street and Cairo Street.

Recently advertised for sale at £1.9m, the building opposite Golden

Square has been snapped up for a multi-million pound development to be known as 'The Hive WA1'. The building as a whole was designed by architect John Douglas around 1864, but was substantially rebuilt around 1908. 'The Hive WA1' is a three storey corner property covering a massive

corner property covering a massive 80,000 sq ft. There are plans to convert the building to a one-stop destination that will be developed for a number of facets and be a busy hive of activity for both work and

The Ground floor at the turn of the last century would have originally been the Co-Operative Society's main department store – featuring department provision deglers. main department store – teaturing grocers, draper, provision dealers, baker and cobblers. The space is being transformed into a Boutique Shopping Mall made up of 26 units that can be let as single units or combined. These start as little as 170 soffi up to 2800 sq ft and the site is seeking retail operators to take up this prime space. Florists, coffee shop, wine merchants, mens and ladies fashion, hairdressers, barbershop, restaurant, bar and jewellers – all enquiries lettings@thehivewa1.com There is potential additional storage facilities in the basement so both floors can be linked and a large

noors can be linked and a large good delivery area at the rear. First-floor is being transformed into the Brass Monkey Sports bar, planning to open at the end of April 2022. Expect cocktail bar, shuffle boards, pool tables, live music, DJ and big screens showing all the latest and big screens showing all the latest sporting events. The front area of this floor is to be let for prime office space and a co-working area is also envisaged as well as a gym. Second floor is home to the original Members Hall from 1910

where a plaque celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Warrington Co-

Operative Society (then known as Warrington Equitable Industrial Co-Operative Society). The Memorial Hall would have been used by the members for events and a plaque in situ was kept up to date with details of presidents until the outbreak of World War II.

The ballroom was a popular hangout for US Army servicemen based at the Burtonwood airbase.

The Warrington Equitable Industrial Co-Operative Society was originally established in Cairo Street in 1860. By the time the Memorial Hall was established in this building in 1910, the Warrington Co-Op Society had grown to 9,000 members, 8 other branches and a turnover of £75,000 (£5 million in today's terms). The Members Hall was named the "Birchall-Rathbone Memorial Hall". Rathbone is named after Arthur Hornby Rathbone who died in 1909 of the Warrington Co-Op. Birchall was Thomas Birchall who was a former president of the Warrington Co-Operative who died in 1905. The plan is to reinvent this space into

a large conference and banqueting facility and breath life back into it Plans are also underway to seek permission for a panoramic Sky Garden on the root, following the success of the terrace at San Lorenzo on Palmyra Square there is a large 10,000 sq ft flat roof space that offers incredible views to the West. Plans show an island bar, 4 street food kitchens and seating for 300+ people.

All in all an exciting project that is sure to become a mecca for

that is sure to become a mecca for hospitality, shopping and office space all under the same roof. Planning to be open by late Summer/Autumn of 2022, please email all enquires to lettings@ thehivewa1.com and check all the details on the website www. thehivewa1.com thehivewa1.com





## Fund-raising dinner raises over £2,500 for Ukraine appeal

A special fund-raiser organised by three Warrington councillors at the Cinnamon Lounge Restaurant in town, helped raise over £2,500 for the Ukraine appeal.

The event was organised by Warrington councillors Mo Hussain, Anthony Higgins and Sagheer Zaman. The collaboration raised £2,550 for the DEC charities (disasters emergency committee) who have been at the forefront of helping those affected by the conflict in Ukraine: providing food, water, shelter and medical assistance.

The evening included a banquet for the attendees and a raffle prize draw. Prizes were donated by Cinnamon Lounge, Warrington Wolves, Livewire, Walton Gardens, Paul Taylor of Taylor Business &

many others. Cllr Mo Hussain thanked the staff and management of the restaurant for their continuous support. He added, "I would like to thank everyone who came and even those who couldn't - but still donated for Ukraine."

Director of Cinnamon Lounge, Imran Malik, commented, "Even Imran Malik, commented, "Even amidst the current situation of rising costs; people of Warrington have donated to help others. That's something to be very proud of." Cllr Tony Higgins said "A big thank you to the Cinnamon Lounge

and its staff for accommodating this event at short notice and for their support.

This fundraiser was our way to raise some much-needed funds that will go towards helping the citizens of the Ukraine during this appalling

"We are overwhelmed at the generosity to each and every single person who has donated to help us reach this amount on the night for the DEC – Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal. "Whether you contributed to the

fundraiser or expressed words of solidarity, your support means a lot to the people of Ukraine."



# Warrington school wins leading role in drive to improve behaviour

# A WARRINGTON school with one of the best behaviour records in the North West has landed a top role in a $\pounds 10$ million government initiative to improve behaviour culture in education.

King's Leadership Academy's exemplary behaviour standards mean it has been chosen to be a lead secondary school by the Department for Education's Behaviour Hubs programme.

Behaviour Hubs programme. As one of 50 lead secondary schools across the country, King's Warrington will provide tailored advice, training and support to senior management teams from other schools to help them bring about lasting change and raise overall behaviour standards over the next three years.

the next three years. The school, at Woolston, part of the Great Schools Trust, will also be the location of one of just 10 multiacademy trust hubs.

academy trust hubs. Katie Sharp, head of King's Warrington and members of King's staff, will help other schools in the North West identify areas where new approaches and policies can be applied to improve pupil behaviour and facilitate visits to Warrington to see first-hand the effective behaviour practices used within the academy.

Ms Sharp said: "We are extremely proud to be selected as the lead school for this important initiative and look forward to sharing our experiences and knowledge with other schools in the region.

"Good behaviour has always been important at King's Warrington as we believe it is a cornerstone of academic success and helps pupils to reach their full potential. Our culture here has always brought a positive response from students and means that since the academy was established in 2012, we have never had to exclude a pupil for behavioural reasons."

Shane lerston, chief executive officer at the Great Schools Trust, added: "A school without a strong culture means rules are unenforceable and a strong culture means rules aren't required. Our job is to help the schools we work with to teach their children the habits required for success. Gaining a lead status within the behaviour hub is recognition from the Department of Education that King's Warrington has been able to demonstrate an "exceptional behaviour culture.

"This has been achieved by the hard work of both staff and students and I am delighted we will be able help other schools across the north west create a culture for success."



## Charlotte Nichols MP Warrington North

If you live in Warrington North and have an issue you need help with or would like to book a surgery appointment, please get in touch.

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# BloomingArt Community Queen's Jubilee Project

as part of the Arts Council, "The Let's Create Jubilee Fund"

WARRINGTON-based BloomingArt has been chosen as a community arts project to help celebrate the Queen's 70 years on the throne.

Thanks to the National Lottery in supporting community organisations to deliver creative activities as part of Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, BloomingArt is honoured to have been chosen via Cheshire Community Foundation on behalf of The Arts Council England to be able to deliver a "phenomenal" project for our Warrington Community.

"phenomenal" project for our Warrington Community. Together Art Tutors and Artists will conduct research into key historical events from Queen Elizabeth's reign and examine the tradition of portraiture within the Royal family. Participants will be encouraged to weave into their portraits an aspect of Elizabeth's history and to represent her personality in their responses. This work will culminate in a personal response ready for an exhibition at BloomingArt.

Also, during the week of Whit there will be 5 days for the whole family to come along and take part in various creative activities. These will include badge making,

I hese will include badge making, book-mark making and ceramics. These workshops will be run as part of our BloomingArt Community

The BloomingArt team.

open days. Attendees will be able to take the work made home and keep as special mementoes to capture and celebrate this amazing occasion.

Gail Stubbings from BloomingArt said: "We also would like letter writing and card making so our community has the chance to make magic happen by letting our Queen know how much she is loved by her people. These will be beautifully made, embossed, and embellished."

The portrait workshops started on Monday 18th April 2022 and the main Queen's Platinum Celebrations will run during Whit week







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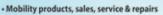
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# Padgate Campus set to become residential development as University relocates to town centre



PADGATE Campus has been earmarked for residential development as the University of Chester prepares to relocate to two new sites in Warrington town centre.

Back in January last year the University announced its ambitious plans to move into the town centre.

This decision resulted from an extensive review involving both staff and students, which identified the need to reconsider the current 'Padgate campus' location in favour of a site that is fit for purpose for current and future demand.

Acting on this feedback, the University has now completed the refurbishment of their Time Square site next to Cineworld and renovation is well underway at their Sarah Parker Remond House site, where the majority of their teaching will take place, just two minutes' walk away in

Barbauld Street. From September, all teaching (with the exception of Police Apprenticeships) will be delivered from the new University Centre Warrington.

Warrington. In a joint statement Professor Vice-Chancellor Eunice Simmons and Deputy Provost, University Centre Warrington, Dr Brendan O'Sullivan said: "Our prime position, benefitting from high tootfall, will enable more people to engage directly with the University and will allow students and staff eagu access to public transport easy access to public transport staff and leisure and retail facilities. We

will hold an official 'opening' of the new buildings in early September.

"We have considered the options for the Padgate site, in close consultation with Warrington Borough Council and following advice from property consultants. We have now taken the decision to offer the site for sale as a residential development opportunity.

"We will be seeking to appoint a developer to fulfil key University objectives, including construction which meets high standards of environmental sustainability and delivers a positive long-term legacy. A marketing advertisement for the site will be published week commencing

4 April." Warrington Wolves, whose training facilities are currently at Padgate, are expected to remain there until November 2023 and the Police Apprenticeships will be taught from the on-site 'Tucker Building' until the end of the 2022/23 academic year.

Care will be taken to preserve campus history, in discussions with alumni, and there will be an upcoming event celebrating the history of Padgate campus in late spring/early summer.

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# Warrington Rylands promoted as Champions!

### by Garry Clarke

WARRINGTON Rylands have been promoted to the Northern Premier League Premier Division as champions after a nail-biting 2-2 draw at home to Bootle.

Needing all three points to guarantee promotion as champions, Rylands had to wait to hear the result from closest challenger Workington, before the celebrations for the majority of the 1,2000 crowd could

"It's a bigger achievement than winning at Wembley" said a jubilant Dave McNabb as his Warrington Rylands team clinched the NPL West

But last year's FA Vase winners

did not make it easy for themselves. Going into the last game of the season a point ahead of 2nd placed Workington who were playing bottom of the table Market Drayton

Town, Rylands expected nothing less than a win would be enough. All square at the final whistle, a nervous wait ensued whilst waiting the the events for Markets Downtons

for the result from Market Drayton.

When news of Workington drawing 1-1 at Market Drayton came through Gorsey Lane erupted with wild scenes of celebration as Warrington Rylands were crowned NPL West champions.

Meanwhile neighbours Warrington Town, ended the season finishing in the play-offs. If they fail to gain promotion from this route it means the two Warrington based teams will be competing against each other next season





# School swap-shop will encourage recycling

A SWAP-shop has opened at Warrington's Sir Thomas Boteler CE High School – to encourage recycling.

The swap-shop is based in the school's art department and was created by head of art Sam Joice in a bid to teach students the importance of reducing, reusing and recycling, and to give them an avenue to steer them away from 'fast fashion"

Students can swap their nearlynew clothes for tokens, which they can then use to get different clothes through the swap shop. They were asked: 'Have you got

clothes in your wardrobe that you don't wear? Wore twice? Not your thing anymore, but still in good nick?'

Then they were told how, by using the swap-shop , they could make sure the clothes can to go to a new, loving home. In return their wardrobe could be re-filled with pieces they loved to wear. No cash involved!



## Rugby youngsters complete 12k a day for 12 days to raise funds for club and charities

TWO rugby youngsters completed an amazing achievement of running 12k a day for 12 consecutive days raising around £3,200 for their club and two charities.

In recognition of their outstanding achievement, Woolston Rovers Under 12s duo Warren Robinson and Finlay James were presented with a "Chairman's Award" from their proud club Chairman Steve

their proud club Chairman Steve Moore, after the recent NCL game against Beverley. Under 12s Head Coach Matt Robinson, father of Warren, was understandably immensely proud of the pair's achievement. He said, "I am massively proud

of the pair of them; they both stayed focused and committed throughout,

even in the severe weather, and kept each other motivated. They are sending out a really positive message to both their teammates and others their age; to challenge themselves the way they did physically and mentally at 12 years of age takes some doing.

"They are also giving something back by raising awareness and funds for their chosen charities. In total the boys raised around £3,200 which will help both charities, Cancer Research UK and St Joseph's Family Centre, as well as their teammates.

"Everybody at Woolston Rovers is extremely proud of these two fine young men.



Joe Philbin (Warrington Wolves & Great Britain), who supported the duo by providing Gripz socks for them both, pictured with Finlay (left) and Warren (right) and Club Chairman Steve Moore with Warren (left) and Finlay (right).

# <u>Einancially</u> yours By David Watkinson

# Covid continues to affect us even as we try to get back to normality

We are all hoping that things are getting back to normal after the past couple of years. However, the Covid pandemic is continuing to affect us.

**Firstly**, of course, there is the increase in the rates of National Insurance by 1.25%. This means that the rate paid by people in employment will increase from 12% to 13.25%. Following this announcement last year, however, the government has since recognised that this could cause financial difficulties and have announced a substantial uplift in the earnings level at which National Insurance starts being charged. Taken together, these mean that anyone earning up to about £450 per week will pay less National Insurance than previously.

**Secondly**, we were all urged to work from home during the pandemic, and tax relief was made available to anyone doing so. This amounted to about £125 a year and could be claimed even if you were not wholly working from home. However, the rules for claiming this deduction have now returned to those applying pre-pandemic. Since April 6, people who choose to work from home instead of being forced to do so can no longer claim the tax relief, meaning that one the following conditions must apply:

- There are no appropriate facilities available for you to perform your job on your employer's premises, or
- The nature of the job requires you to live so far from the employer's premises that it is unreasonable for you to travel to those premises on a daily basis, or
- You are required, under government restrictions, to work from home

Those who meet one or more of these criteria can still claim tax relief to help pay any additional costs incurred whilst working from home on:

- Gas and electricity
- Metered water
- Business phone calls, including dial-up internet access

Tax relief can either be claimed on £6 a week without any need to keep evidence of your extra costs. Any claims above this would require evidence of any increased costs to be kept.

Thirdly, if you are self-employed and have claimed the fourth or fifth SEISS grants (not any of the first three SEISS grants, entitlement to which is not affected), and have amended an earlier year tax return, then you may find yourself in receipt of a letter from the tax office. From April 2022, HMRC is writing to taxpayers who it has identified as needing to repay all or part of their fourth or fifth self-employment income support scheme (SEISS) grant following a tax return amendment. HMRC is also checking whether any amendment means that the taxpayer is entitled to the lower level (30%) rather than the higher level (80%) fifth grant.

When calculating the fourth and fifth SEISS grants HMRC based its calculations on the tax return data for 2016/17 to 2019/20 held as of 2 March 2021. All tax returns and amendments filed by 2 March 2021 were taken into account. However, any amendments made after this date which would reduce the amount of the grant by more than £100, or would cause the taxpayer to be no longer be eligible, must be notified to HMRC and the appropriate amount of grant repaid.

Amendments could include HMRC corrections, taxpayer amendments and HMRC amendments made as a result of an enquiry. Contract settlements, revenue assessments or charges raised are not included as these are considered not to modify the tax return.

The letter will include a formal assessment of the repayment



Margaret Black and David Watkinson

due, together with details of how the amount due has been calculated. If you accept the amendment as assessed then you will need to repay the amount due. This can be done in a number of ways including on line by searching on "Paying HMRC", following the link to the gov.uk page (ensure that it is the correct page) and then following the instructions, quoting the reference number on the assessment which starts with the letter X.

If you cannot afford to make immediate payment, then you should phone HMRC on 0300 322 9497 to make a time to pay arrangement.

A 5% late payment penalty will apply if payment is not made within 30 days of the due date shown on the assessment, or a time to pay arrangement is not set up by that date. Interest will be applied to any amounts unpaid by 31 January 2023.

If the taxpayer does not accept the assessment an appeal should be submitted in writing within 30 days of the date of the letter.

**WatkinsonBlack** have considerable experience in all areas of taxation and business services, including providing a very costeffective payroll bureau service. If you want to arrange a no-obligation initial meeting on any taxation or accounting matter then please contact us. Our office is now open during all normal office hours. Please note that these ideas are intended to inform rather than advise and you should always obtain professional advice before taking any action.



Directors: Thomas Coyne & Stuart Barr. Consultants: David Watkinson & Margaret Black

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# Wire legends help Rugby League All-Stars raise £10,000 for charity



Words & Pictures by Eddie Whitham

# A crowd of almost 1500 attended a Warrington Wolves v The Rugby League All-Stars match at Victoria Park which helped raise $\pm 10,000$ for charity.

The game was to raise funds for the RL All-Stars Charities Fund to Aid Children with cancer. The charity is to hand out £10,000 a month for 6 months to the Amelia Mae Foundation.

The game was played in a cold blustery wind but this

did not spoil the talents of both sides. Smiles were seen more than at your usual RL match. ĺŧ was a keenly with fought game honors even at the final whistle with

both sides scoring 18 points. Former Warrington stars taking part in the game included Bennie Westwood, Toa Kohe-Love, Tony Thorniley, Mark Forster, Kevin Brown, Ryan Atkins, Paul Wood, Kevin Penny and Chris Riley, under the watchful eye of former coach and player Paul Cullen







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